

# **State of Alaska FY2011 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Health and Social Services Children's Services Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

## Children's Services Results Delivery Unit

### Contribution to Department's Mission

Promote safe children and strong families.

### Core Services

- Investigate protective service reports and ensure services to children and their families when necessary.
- Develop case plans and monitor progress of in-home services.
- Develop permanency plans for children in out-of-home care.
- Facilitate early intervention and treatment services.
- Prevent and remedy child abuse and neglect.

### Results at a Glance

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <http://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

#### END RESULT A: Child abuse and neglect is prevented.

- The number of children aged 0 - 3 that have been screened through the Early Intervention and Infant Learning Programs has more than tripled in the past 4 years. In FY03, 113 children were screened. In FY08, 425 children were screened. That number decreased by 11% in FY09.

##### Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- Child Protective Services referrals completed by the Early Intervention and Infant Learning programs have increased 55% from 2003 to 2008. Numbers fell by only 1% in FY09.
- Annual rates of all children reunified with their parents or caretakers within 12 months of removal dropped by 5.5% in FY09. The first quarter of FY10 remains at 61%.

#### END RESULT B: Safe and timely adoptions.

- The number of children placed in adoptive homes increased by 31 from 2007 to 2008 and climbed again in FY09 by an additional 52 completed adoptions.

##### Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- The number of adoptions of Alaska youth age 12 through 18 increased by 36% from FY07 to FY08 and another 29% in FY09.

### Key RDU Challenges

The Office of Children's Services (OCS) provides a range of services and support systems to prevent and remedy child abuse and neglect. These include child abuse and neglect prevention services, child protective services, foster care, residential care, family support and preservation services, adoption and guardianship, and permanency planning related to adoptions and guardianships.

Every child welfare agency has challenges and no child welfare agency excels at every aspect of its mission. The ultimate challenge in an agency such as the OCS is to keep children safe in their homes. All too often, children in the child welfare system experience multiple losses and then multiple placements, increasing their vulnerability rather than stabilizing their circumstance so that long-term success can result. The OCS must teach, maintain, and adhere to the underlying philosophy of keeping children in their homes whenever possible. It must reduce foster care placements, and if it is necessary to remove a child from their home in order to assure their safety, the OCS must strive to reunite that child with their family as soon as possible thereafter. When permanency is the only option, it should be timely, and adoptive parents or guardians should receive the appropriate support from the state.

The responsibility is daunting and the job, while often times rewarding, can be emotionally taxing. The OCS struggles to attract, train, and retain good quality staff; direct available funds to invest in prevention and in-home services to keep families intact and prevent them from entering the system; and engage community partners in all aspects of the processes of prevention, in-home services, placements, and permanency.

OCS staff vacancy rates fell 2.2% in just one year, but turnover rates remain high at 35%. The annual OCS staff survey

conducted in September, 2008, indicates that 72.8% of those who responded note increased pay and benefits as one of the three main areas that would help retain staff at the OCS. 62.1% believe a reduction in workload is needed, and 36.9% indicate increased opportunity for training and increased recognition for work accomplishments are additionally important.

In September of 2008, the OCS underwent its second round of federal on-site *Child and Family Services Reviews* (CFSR). Reviews are conducted by the Children's Bureau within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of each review is to help states improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families who receive services through the child welfare system. Compliance standards are set from 95% to 100% as the focus is continuous improvement. Therefore, no state thus far reviewed has been successful in all areas reviewed. States that are not in substantial compliance must implement a Program Improvement Plan based on the findings.

Alaska will receive formal review findings late this year or early next. Specific strategies will be developed and implemented in response to the review findings, as each area identified as needing improvement is addressed. Practice will need to be adjusted, training provided, outcomes monitored, and funding realigned or requested. Preliminary findings indicate areas for improvement have been identified that impact the department and the state as a whole, predominantly the availability and accessibility of services for families.

Prevention services are crucial to the success of the OCS mission and philosophy to keep children safe and to keep families together. The Early Intervention and Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP) need for services has increased significantly. Program grantees report the estimated need for 20 positions to fill the gap between services being provided and the need for services. From 2005 through 2008, 134 more children were enrolled in infant learning programs while services directly provided to clients declined from 2,102 client home visits in 2003 to 1,732 in 2007. Speech contacts have decreased from 4,600 in 2005 to 3,600 in 2008.

The OCS continues to play an active role in the department's Bring the Kids Home (BTKH) initiative while working with Alaskan residential care facilities to ensure children in need of services are adequately supported, and in turn, enabling facilities to enhance program capacity. One of the primary challenges facing this initiative is establishment of adequate facility space and services in-state.

On October 7, 2008 the President signed HR 6893, "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act." The Act provides for connecting and supporting relative caregivers, improving outcomes for children in foster care, increasing tribal foster care and adoptions access, and increased incentives for adoption. The OCS review of the new laws to determine the impact on practice, finance, and service delivery has just recently begun. Federal directives related to effective dates and implementation specifics have not been released.

## **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2011**

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Office of Children's Services (OCS) has made some very difficult choices in an effort to prioritize all funding needs. The OCS will implement the final phase of the workload study and adjust staffing adequately. A sufficient number of staff to deliver quality direct services to OCS clients will positively impact the OCS mission and DHSS goals.

The recent on-site Child and Family Services Review conducted by the federal government with the goal of continued program improvement as the core concern will result in a program improvement plan. Provided with adequate federal and state support and resources to develop and implement the resulting plan, the OCS anticipates continued advancement toward best practice and better child protection services.

## **Updated Status for Results to be Delivered in FY2010**

No significant changes to be delivered in FY10.

## **Major RDU Accomplishments in 2009**

The OCS Online Resources for the Children of Alaska (ORCA) was determined to be in compliance with all applicable Tier II requirements as a result of the FY08 Statewide Automated Child Welfare System (SACWIS) Assessment Review.

This means that ORCA, Alaska's SACWIS system, has complied with or has submitted accepted proposed action plans for all federal system requirements through July, 2008.

Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) have proven successful and the OCS continues to promote co-location with the CACs by OCS staff. The OCS currently co-locates with the Anchorage Lake Plaza Multidisciplinary Center CAC (Alaska CARES). Referrals to that center have increased by 13% in the last year. The Children's Place CAC located in Wasilla is in the process of designing a new facility and plans include co-location by a full OCS investigative unit. The OCS is also currently in the planning stages of co-locating staff in the Fairbanks CAC and plans to co-locate with the Glenallen CAC are close to final. In FY08, 2,784 reports of child sexual abuse and physical abuse were investigated - 1,557 (56%) were referred to an Alaskan Child Advocacy Center.

The OCS continues to work toward a statewide Family-to-Family (F2F) program. F2F has been very successful in Anchorage in working toward change in the child welfare system through support provided to resource families, building community partnership, and team decision making that includes not just foster parents and caseworkers but families and community members. The Anne E. Casey Foundation reports that in Alaska, 70% of the children who receive team decision making services are able to stay in their own homes or in a relative home rather than a foster home. Over the course of the next few years, the OCS plans to expand F2F services statewide, with expansion to Fairbanks already started.

The OCS has substantially met or surpassed several national safety and permanency standards reported to the U.S. Administrative for Children and Families:

\* Of all children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment allegation during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percent were not victims of another incident during a 6-month period? National standard = 94.6%, Alaska = 90.7%

\* Of all children in foster care during the reporting period, what percent were not victims of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member? National standard = 99.7%, Alaska = 99.6%

\* Reunification timeliness and permanency composite: National standard = 122.6, Alaska = 122.4 (Composite makeup includes indicators for length of time from foster care to reunification. An all-inclusive list can be seen at [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/data\\_indicators.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/data_indicators.htm).)

\* Achieving permanency for children in care for long periods of time composite: National standard = 121.7, Alaska = 125.4 (Composite makeup includes outcomes related to permanency and stability in living situations. An all-inclusive list can be seen at [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/data\\_indicators.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/data_indicators.htm).)

### Contact Information

**Contact:** Betsy Jensvold, Budget Manager  
**Phone:** (907) 465-1629  
**Fax:** (907) 465-1850  
**E-mail:** [betsy.jensvold@alaska.gov](mailto:betsy.jensvold@alaska.gov)

### Children's Services RDU Financial Summary by Component

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2009 Actuals				FY2010 Management Plan				FY2011 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b>Formula Expenditures</b>												
Children's Medicaid Services	5,126.8	5,790.6	1.3	10,918.7	7,139.0	8,914.3	0.0	16,053.3	5,396.5	8,165.9	0.0	13,562.4
Foster Care Base Rate	8,254.8	1,529.0	2,187.9	11,971.7	10,946.8	3,756.5	2,542.7	17,246.0	10,946.8	3,756.5	2,542.7	17,246.0
Foster Care Augmented Rate	685.4	556.3	0.0	1,241.7	1,737.6	538.5	0.0	2,276.1	1,137.6	538.5	0.0	1,676.1
Foster Care Special Need	3,582.3	446.4	1,475.1	5,503.8	3,740.9	1,027.7	1,495.1	6,263.7	3,740.9	1,027.7	1,495.1	6,263.7
Subsidized Adoptions/Guardians	11,251.8	10,582.6	0.0	21,834.4	10,669.6	12,732.0	0.0	23,401.6	10,669.6	12,732.0	0.0	23,401.6
<b>Non-Formula Expenditures</b>												
Children's Services Management	3,014.7	2,125.1	1,249.0	6,388.8	2,772.4	3,921.0	648.5	7,341.9	3,763.9	3,277.6	200.0	7,241.5
Children's Services Training	813.6	338.0	0.0	1,151.6	1,011.8	813.0	0.0	1,824.8	1,011.8	813.0	0.0	1,824.8
Front Line Social Workers	26,795.5	11,293.9	213.4	38,302.8	25,016.9	14,991.8	2,208.5	42,217.2	26,872.2	14,091.8	300.0	41,264.0
Family Preservation	3,259.4	5,050.6	474.8	8,784.8	5,798.8	6,205.1	774.9	12,778.8	7,148.8	6,205.1	974.9	14,328.8
Residential Child Care	3,842.6	187.1	62.0	4,091.7	4,800.2	257.3	0.0	5,057.5	6,292.7	257.3	0.0	6,550.0
Infant Learning Program Grants	5,211.3	2,127.4	708.9	8,047.6	6,482.3	4,551.8	863.1	11,897.2	6,482.3	3,805.3	863.1	11,150.7
Children's Trust Programs	0.0	285.3	446.4	731.7	0.0	0.0	589.7	589.7	0.0	0.0	549.7	549.7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>71,838.2</b>	<b>40,312.3</b>	<b>6,818.8</b>	<b>118,969.3</b>	<b>80,116.3</b>	<b>57,709.0</b>	<b>9,122.5</b>	<b>146,947.8</b>	<b>83,463.1</b>	<b>54,670.7</b>	<b>6,925.5</b>	<b>145,059.3</b>



**Children's Services**  
**Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component**  
**From FY2010 Management Plan to FY2011 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2010 Management Plan</b>	<b>80,116.3</b>	<b>57,709.0</b>	<b>9,122.5</b>	<b>146,947.8</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Children's Medicaid Services	-1,742.5	0.0	0.0	-1,742.5
-Children's Services Management	991.5	106.6	-165.0	933.1
-Front Line Social Workers	1,855.3	-900.0	-955.3	0.0
-Family Preservation	0.0	0.0	-75.0	-75.0
-Foster Care Augmented Rate	-600.0	0.0	0.0	-600.0
-Residential Child Care	1,492.5	0.0	0.0	1,492.5
-Infant Learning Program Grants	0.0	-2,244.8	-255.0	-2,499.8
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>				
-Children's Medicaid Services	0.0	-748.4	0.0	-748.4
-Children's Services Management	0.0	-750.0	-283.5	-1,033.5
-Front Line Social Workers	0.0	0.0	-953.2	-953.2
-Children's Trust Programs	0.0	0.0	-40.0	-40.0
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Family Preservation	1,350.0	0.0	275.0	1,625.0
-Infant Learning Program Grants	0.0	1,498.3	255.0	1,753.3
<b>FY2011 Governor</b>	<b>83,463.1</b>	<b>54,670.7</b>	<b>6,925.5</b>	<b>145,059.3</b>